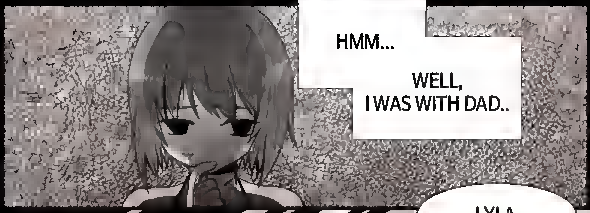
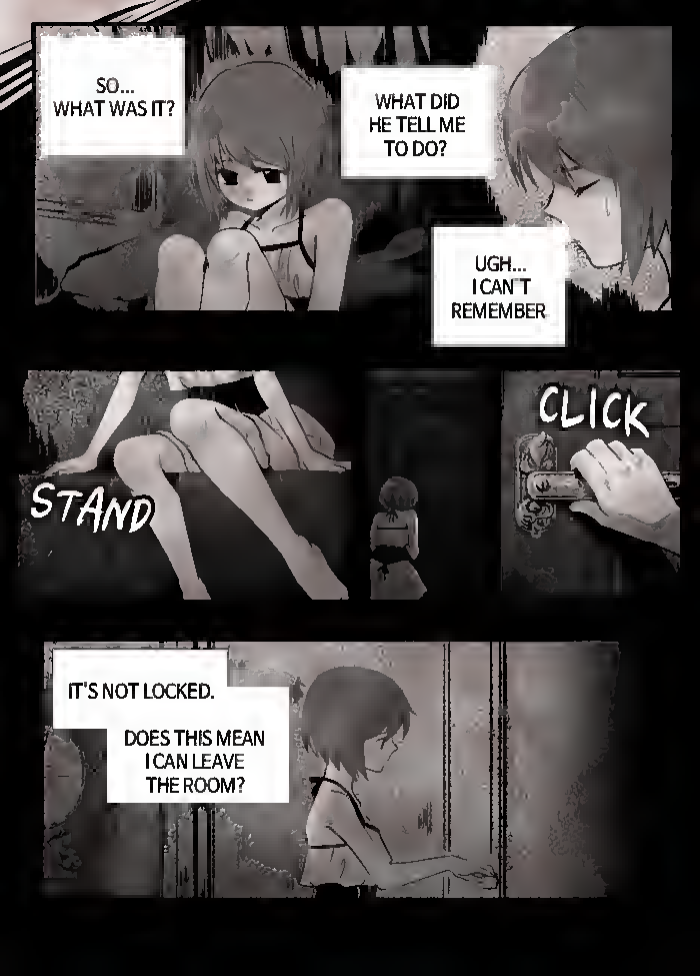
I COULD SEE THE MOON THROUGH THE WINDOW.
A LARGE, STRANGELY-SHAPED MOON.
WAS BENEATH MY FEET.
THE VAULT OF HORROR: A COLLECTION OF NIGHTMARES
THE MOON BELOW

BLINK
THROB

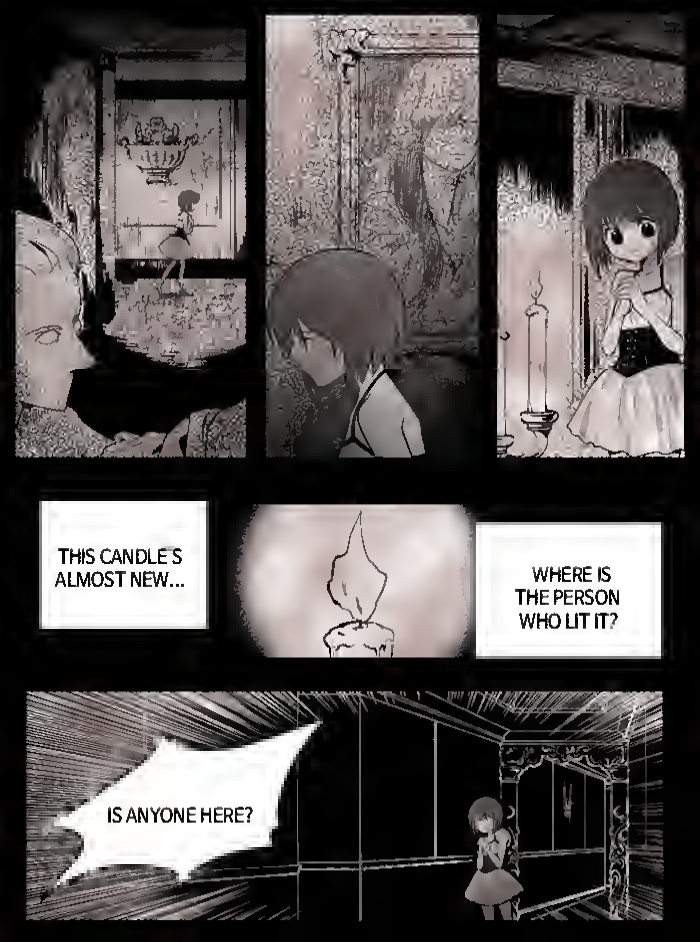
W-WHERE AM I?
TICK TOCK
WHAT'S THIS STRANGE ROOM?

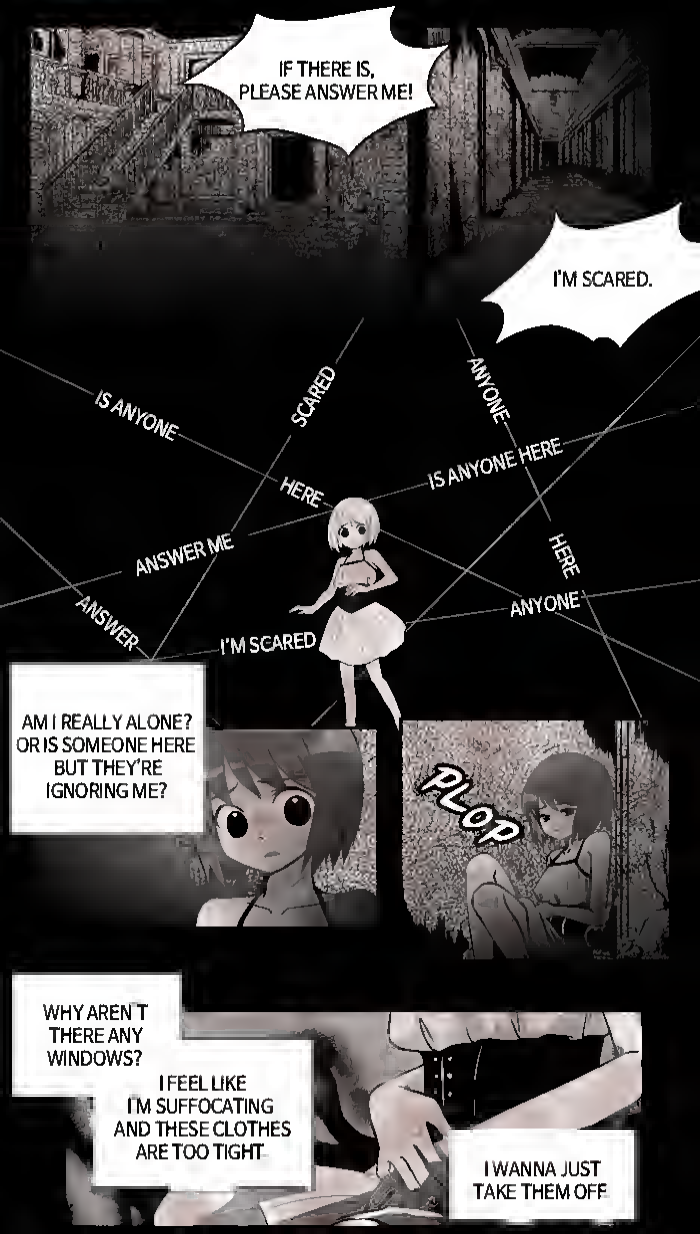


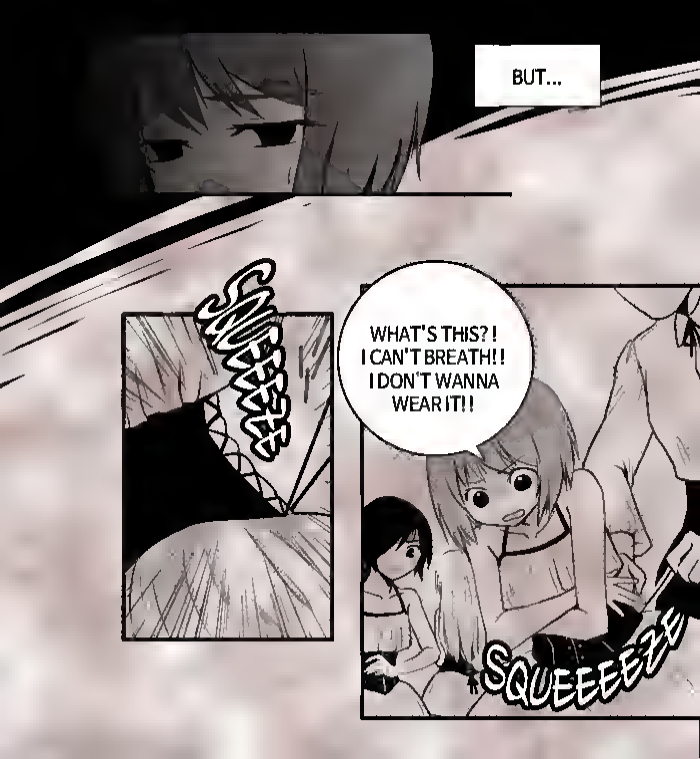
YOU'LL BE A HERO.

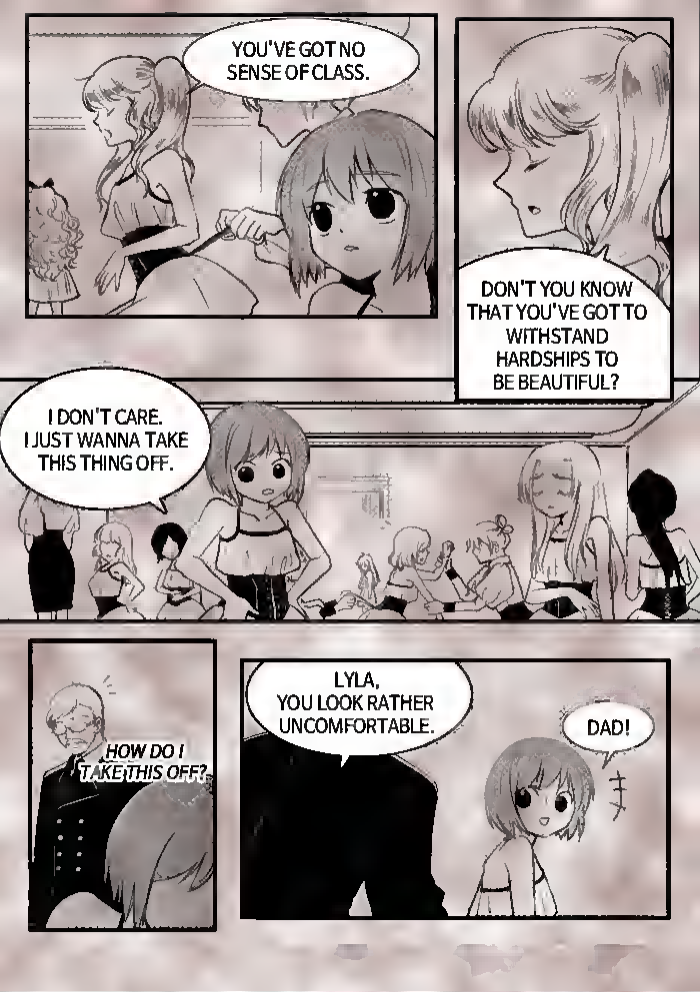

SO...
WHAT WAS IT?
WHAT DID HE TELL ME TO DO?
UGH...
I CAN'T REMEMBER
STAND
CLICK
IT'S NOT LOCKED.
DOES THIS MEAN I CAN LEAVE THE ROOM?

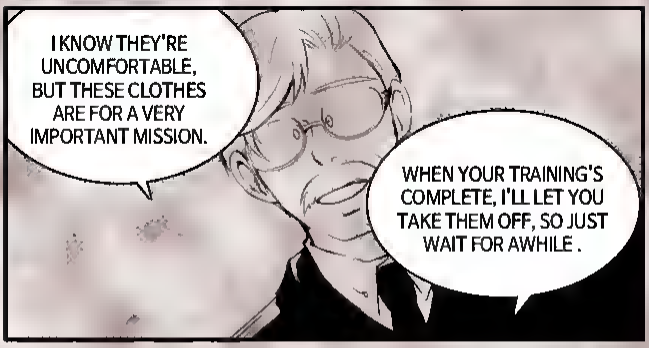
WHAT THE...
SHI
VER

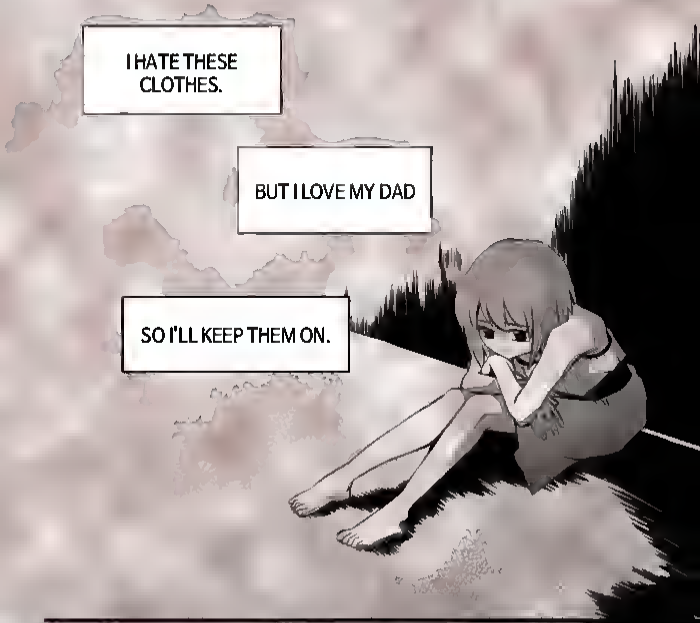

THIS CANDLE'S ALMOST NEW...
WHERE IS THE PERSON WHO LIT IT?
IS ANYONE HERE?


IF THERE IS, PLEASE ANSWER ME!
I'M SCARED.
IS ANYONE HERE
SCARED
ANYONE
IS ANYONE HERE
ANSWER ME
HERE
ANSWER
I'M SCARED
ANYONE
HERE
AM I REALLY ALONE? OR IS SOMEONE HERE BUT THEY'RE IGNORING ME?
PLOP
WHY AREN'T THERE ANY WINDOWS?
I FEEL LIKE I'M SUFFOCATING AND THESE CLOTHES ARE TOO TIGHT
I WANNA JUST TAKE THEM OFF


BUT...
SQUEEZE
WHAT'S THIS?!
I CAN'T BREATH!!
I DON'T WANNA
WEAR IT!!
SQUEEEEZE

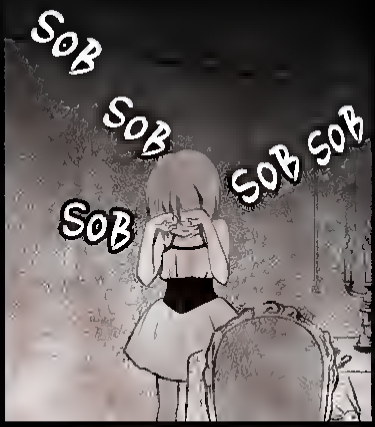

YOU'VE GOT NO SENSE OF CLASS.
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT TO WITHSTAND HARDSHIPS TO BE BEAUTIFUL?
I DON'T CARE. I JUST WANNA TAKE THIS THING OFF.
HOW DO I TAKE THIS OFF?
LYLA, YOU LOOK RATHER UNCOMFORTABLE.
DAD!

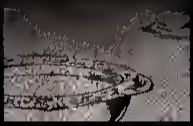

I KNOW THEY'RE UNCOMFORTABLE, BUT THESE CLOTHES ARE FOR A VERY IMPORTANT MISSION.
WHEN YOUR TRAINING'S COMPLETE, I'LL LET YOU TAKE THEM OFF, SO JUST WAIT FOR AWHILE .

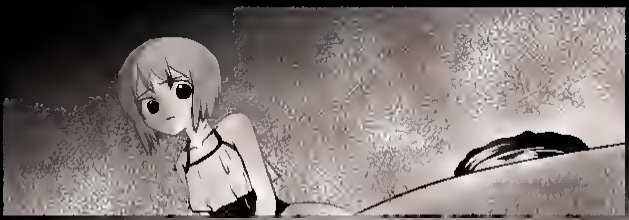

I HATE THESE CLOTHES.
BUT I LOVE MY DAD
SO I'LL KEEP THEM ON.

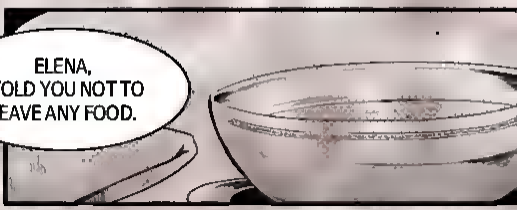
IS THAT MUSIC?
WHERE'S THAT COMING FROM?

IS SOMEONE THERE?!
WHO ARE YOU?
WHY'RE YOU HIDING?
PLEASE COME OUT!


SOB
SOB
SOB
SOB SOB






ELENA,
I TOLD YOU NOT TO
LEAVE ANY FOOD.

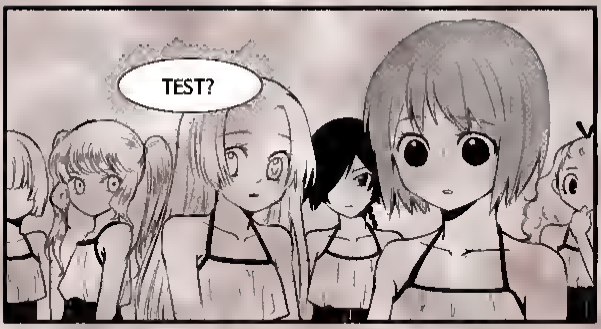
I HATE ALL OF THIS FOOD. I DON'T WANNA EAT.
THEN I'LL EAT ELENA'S FOOD!
LYLA! YOU CAN'T EAT ANYONE ELSE'S FOOD!!
YOUR FOOD HAS BEEN SPECIALLY PREPARED TO KEEP YOU HEALTHY.
SO EAT IT WHEN I TELL YOU, AND DON'T LEAVE ANY.

GAG
THIS TASTES AWFUL
THIS TASTES LIKE SOMEONE JUST MASHED A BUNCH OF FOOD TOGETHER
STILL, I VE GOT TO FINISH ALL OF IT.
BECAUSE DAD TOLD ME I'VE GOT TO DO AS I'VE BEEN TRAINED.
SO.

ALL OF THOSE THINGS I'VE DONE...

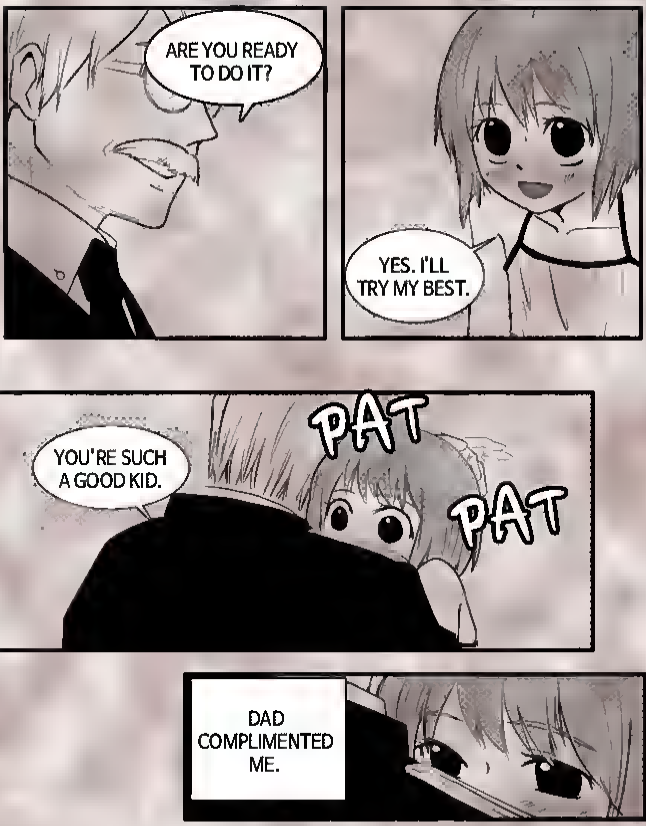
THE TRAINING I'VE RECEIVED...

TODAY, WE'RE DOING A STRESS RESISTANCE TEST.

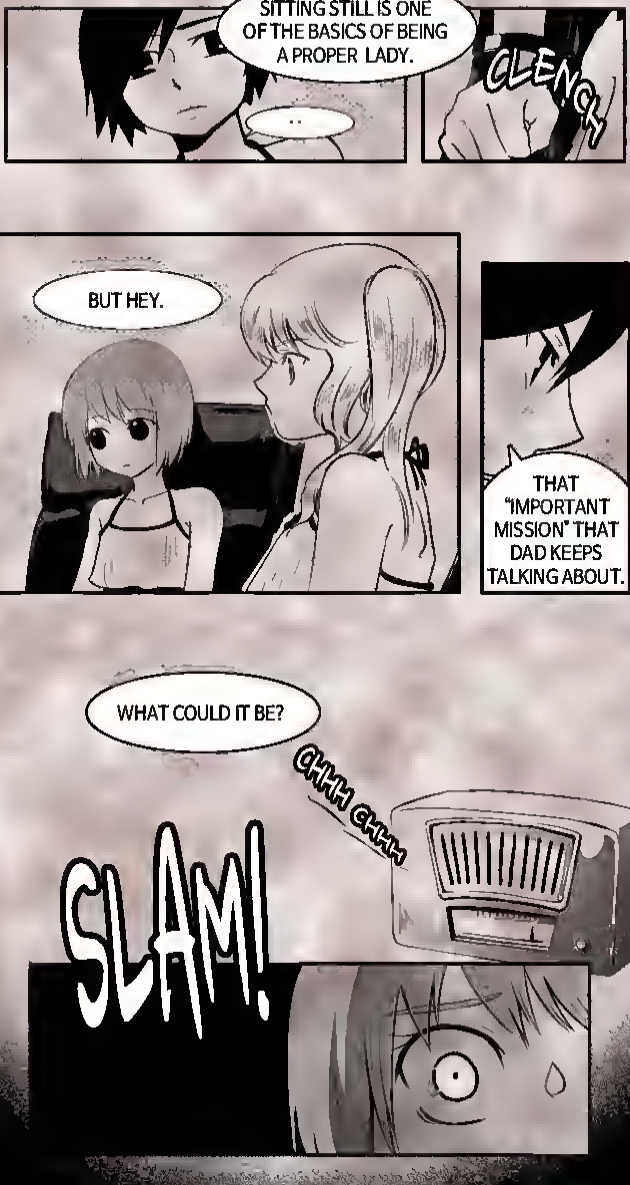


WE'RE GOING TO SEE WHO CAN HOLD OUT THE LONGEST IN THAT ROOM OVER THERE.

FIRST, WE'LL START WITH LYLA, ELVINA, MOOSHKA AND ELENA.


ARE YOU READY TO DO IT?
YES. I'LL TRY MY BEST.
YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD KID.
PAT
PAT
DAD COMPLIMENTED ME.

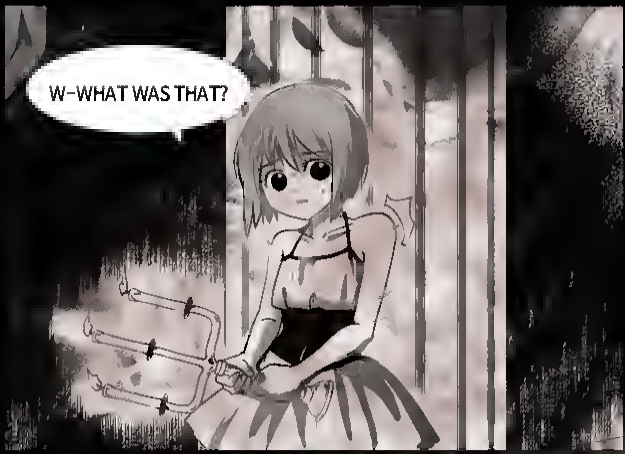
CLICK
CLICK
SLAM
I HATE THAT METALLIC SMELL.
SIT STILL, LYLA!

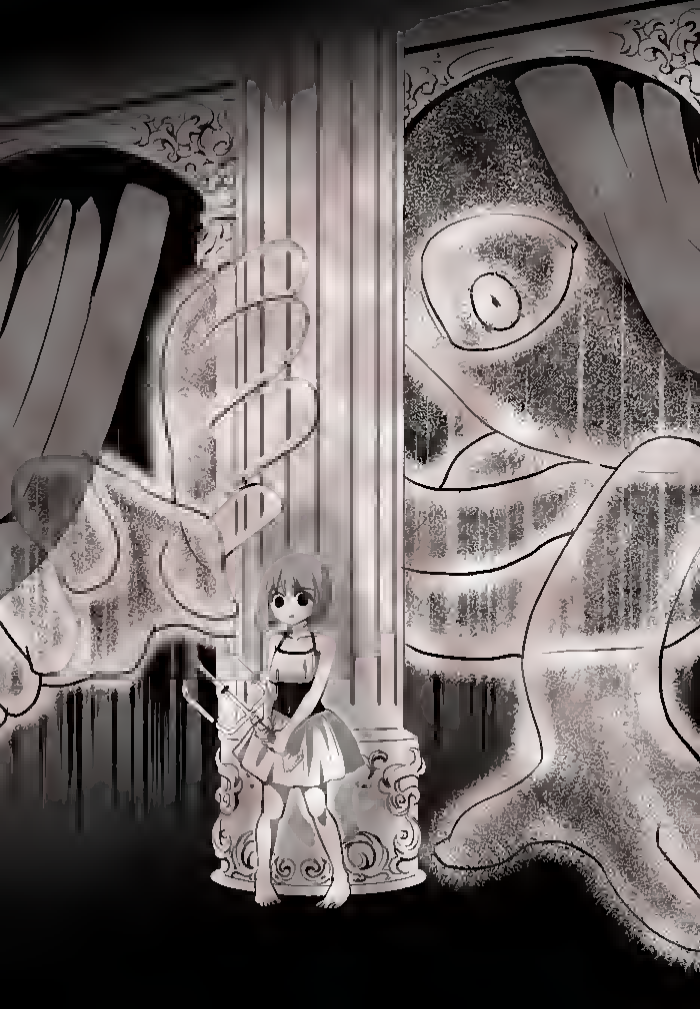

SITTING STILL IS ONE OF THE BASICS OF BEING A PROPER LADY.
..
CLENCH
BUT HEY.
THAT "IMPORTANT MISSION" THAT DAD KEEPS TALKING ABOUT.
WHAT COULD IT BE?
CHHH CHHH
SLAM!

SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM

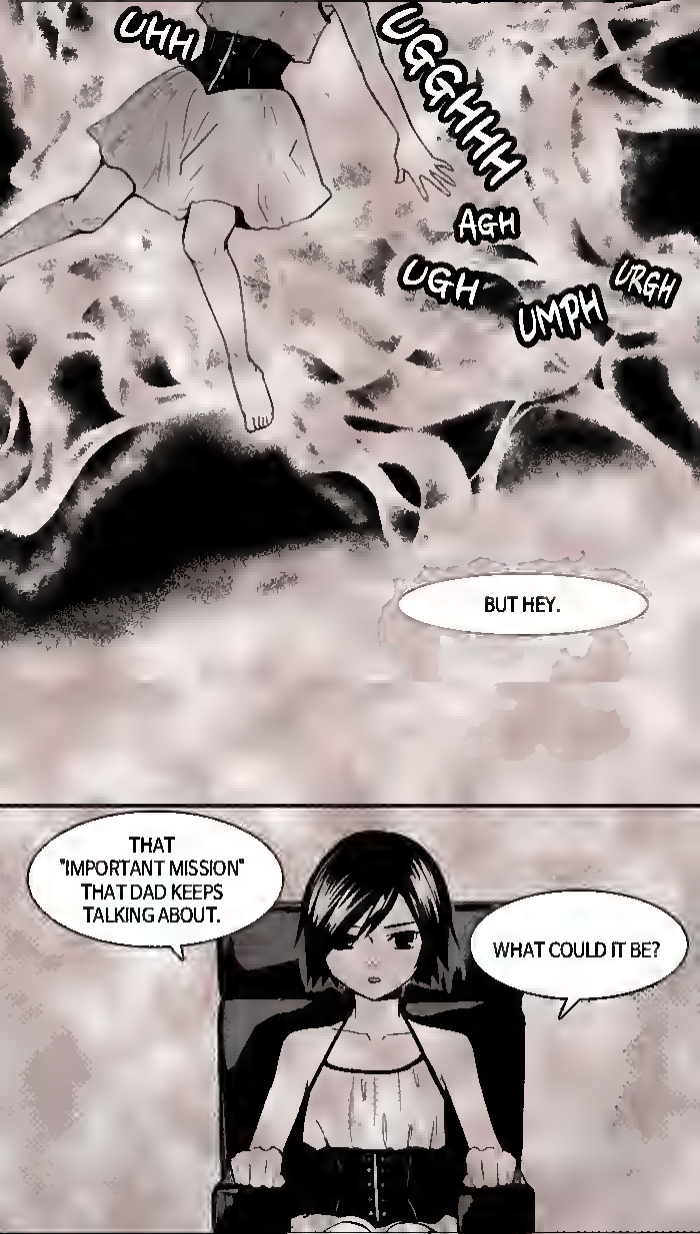
GRAB
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM

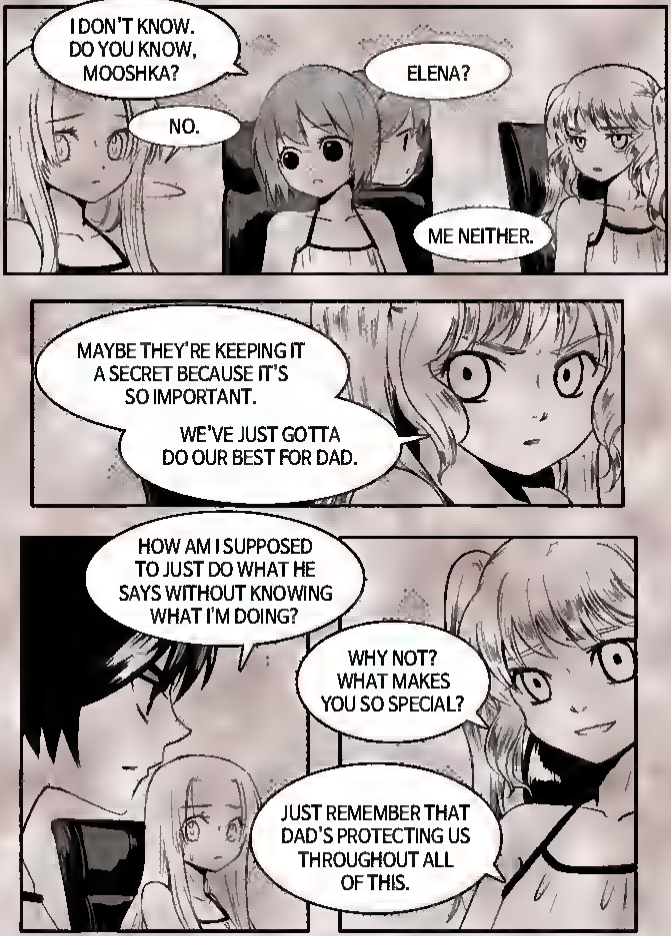
THUD

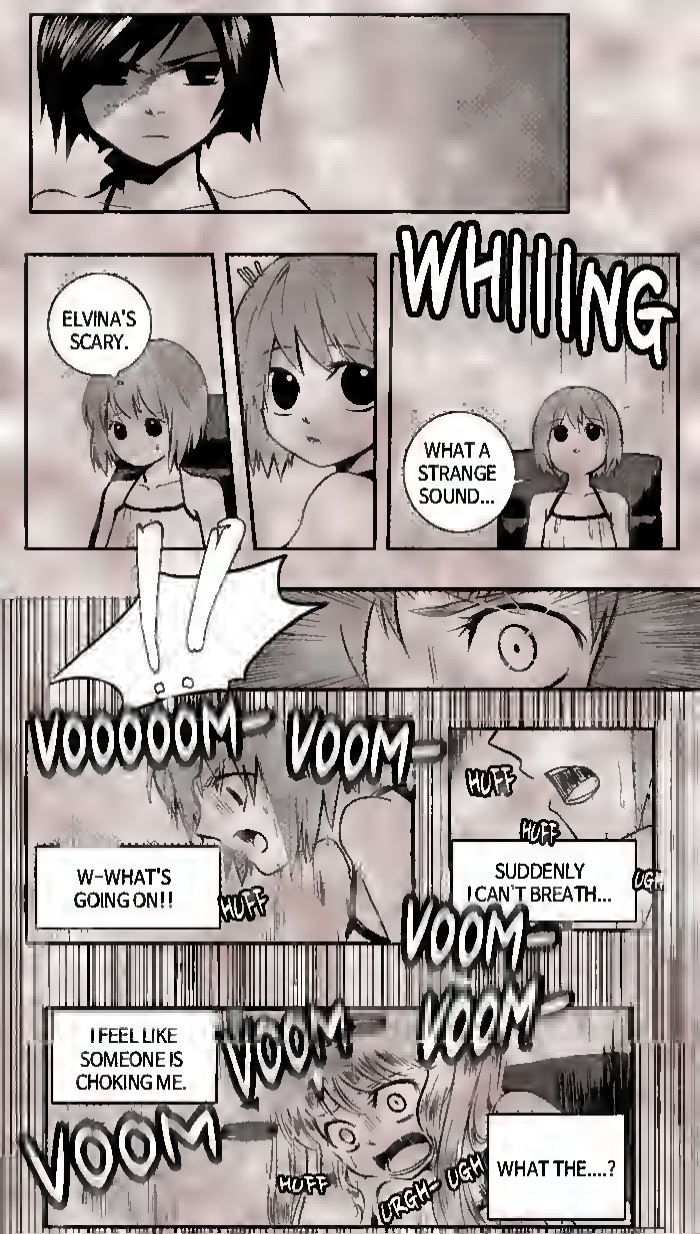

W-WHAT WAS THAT?

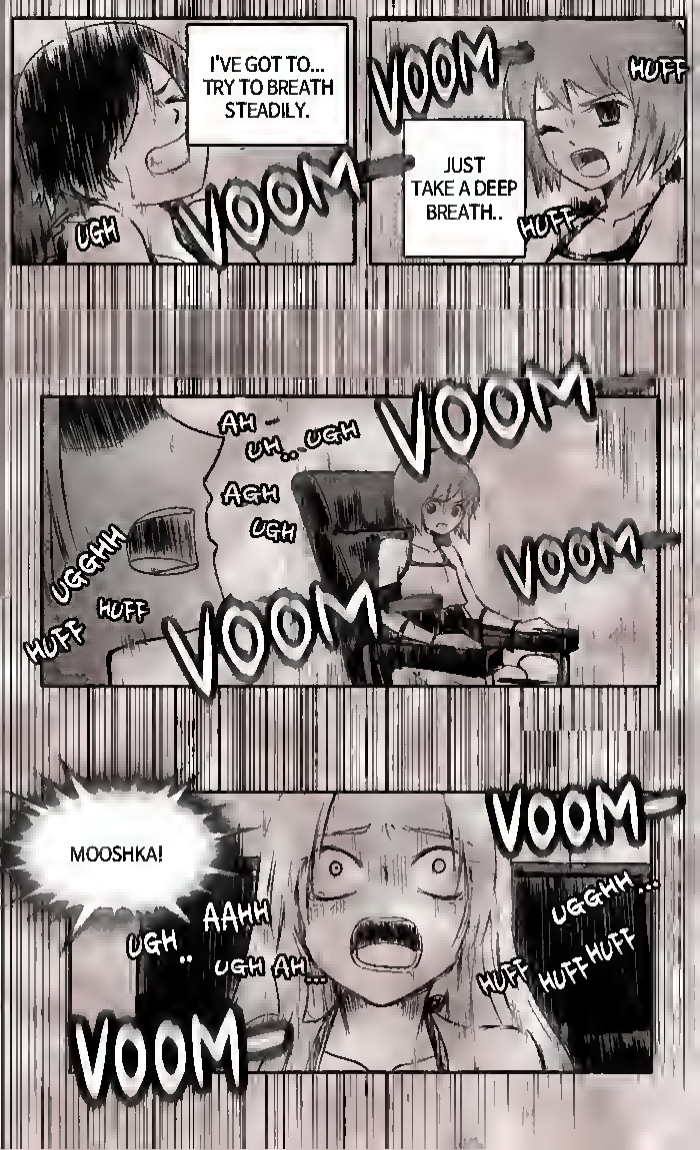


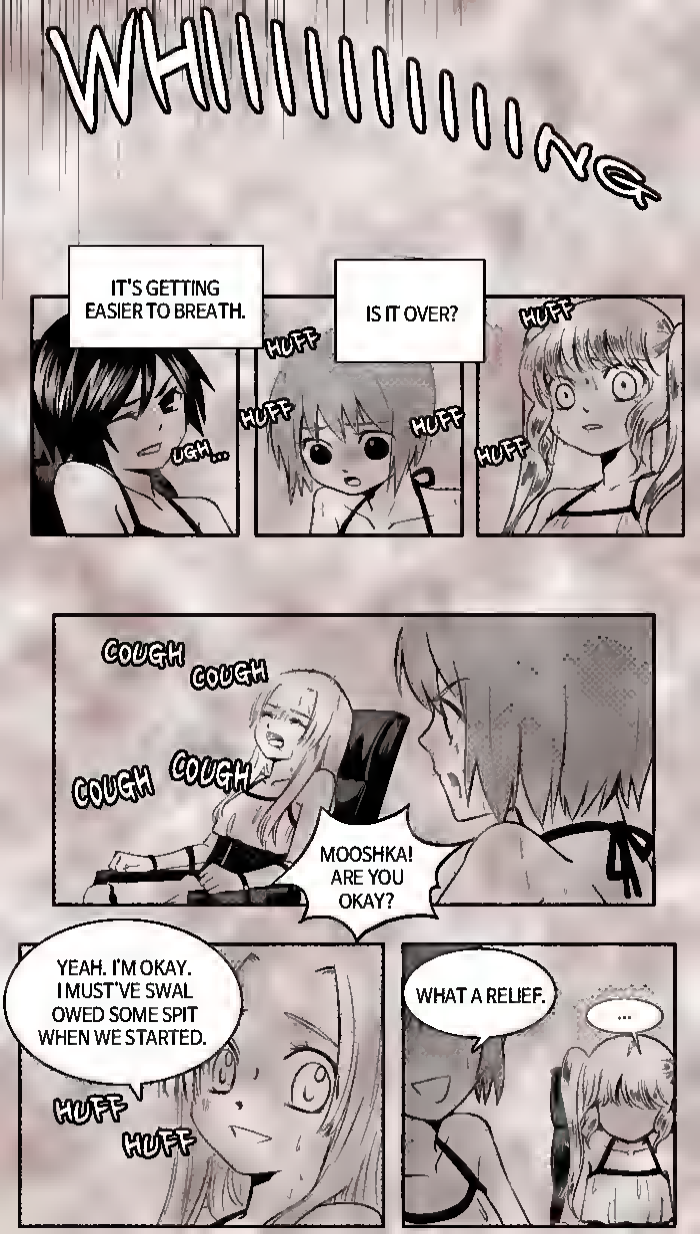
!!
AAAHHHH
WHOOSH
KOONG
URGH
AGH
AHH
UGH

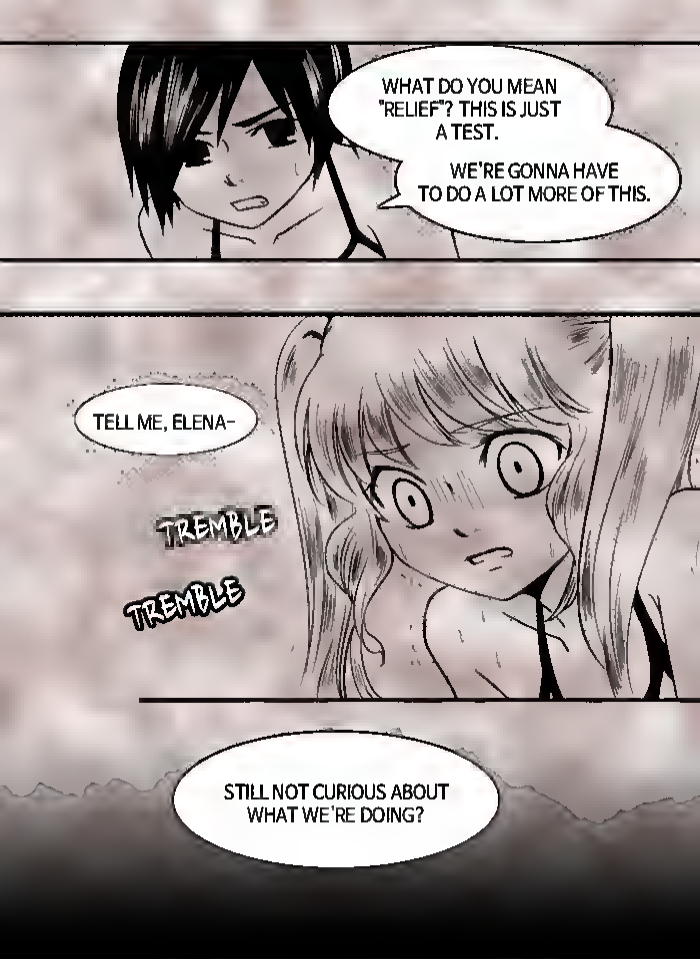

UHH
UGGHHH
AGH
UGH
UMPH
URGH
BUT HEY.
THAT "IMPORTANT MISSION" THAT DAD KEEPS TALKING ABOUT.
WHAT COULD IT BE?


I DON'T KNOW. DO YOU KNOW, MOOSHKA?
NO.
ELENA?
ME NEITHER.
MAYBE THEY'RE KEEPING IT A SECRET BECAUSE IT'S SO IMPORTANT.
WE'VE JUST GOTTA DO OUR BEST FOR DAD.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO JUST DO WHAT HE SAYS WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT I'M DOING?
WHY NOT? WHAT MAKES YOU SO SPECIAL?
JUST REMEMBER THAT DAD'S PROTECTING US THROUGHOUT ALL OF THIS.

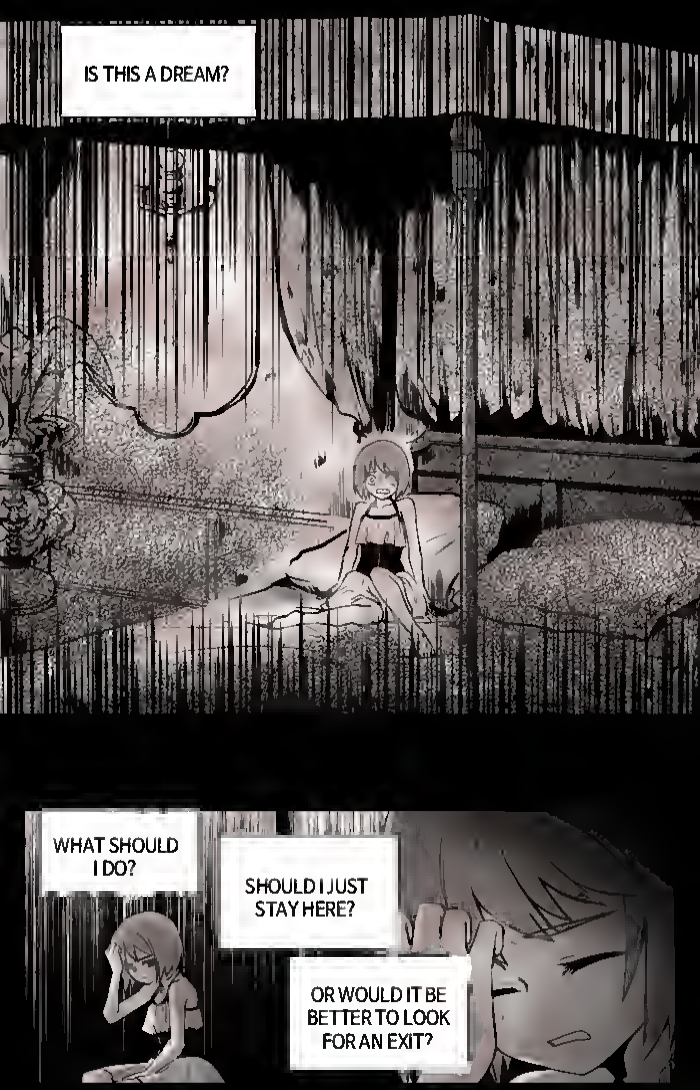

ELVINA'S SCARY.
WHIIING
WHAT A STRANGE SOUND...
VOOOOOM-
VOOM-
W-WHAT'S GOING ON!!
HUFF
HUFF
SUDDENLY I CAN'T BREATH...
VOOM-
VOOM-
I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE IS CHOKING ME.
VOOM
VOOM
VOOM-
HUFF
URGH- UGH
WHAT THE....?


I'VE GOT TO... TRY TO BREATH STEADILY.
UGH
VOOM
VOOM
HUFF
JUST TAKE A DEEP BREATH..
HUFF
AH
UH.. UGH
AGH
UGH
VOOM
VOOM
UGGHH
HUFF
HUFF
VOOM
MOOSHKA!
UGH
AAHH
UGH AH...
VOOM
VOOM
UGGHH ...
HUFF
HUFF HUFF


WHIIIIIIIIIIIING
IT'S GETTING EASIER TO BREATH.
UGH...
IS IT OVER?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
MOOSHKA! ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH. I'M OKAY. I MUST'VE SWALLOWED SOME SPIT WHEN WE STARTED.
HUFF
HUFF
WHAT A RELIEF.
...


WHAT DO YOU MEAN "RELIEF"? THIS IS JUST A TEST.
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO A LOT MORE OF THIS.
TELL ME, ELENA-
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
STILL NOT CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING?

FLASH
WAS THAT A DREAM?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
OR MAYBE...


IS THIS A DREAM?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SHOULD I JUST STAY HERE?
OR WOULD IT BE BETTER TO LOOK FOR AN EXIT?

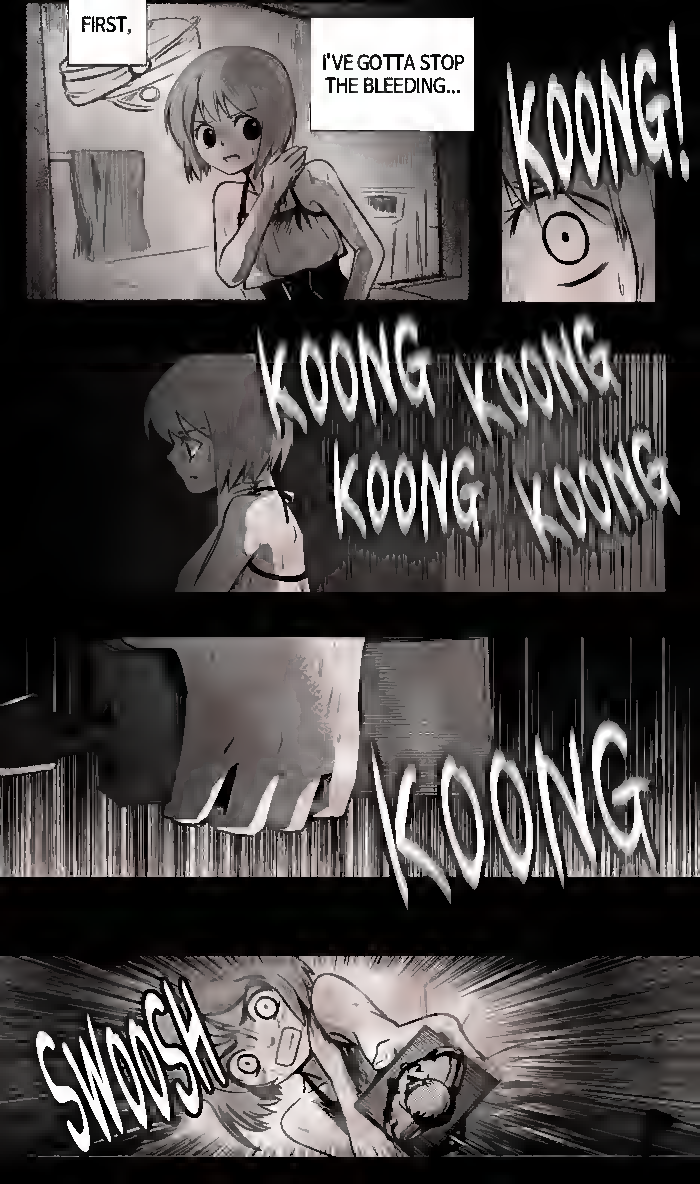
WHAT DO I DO?
I'M SO LOST.

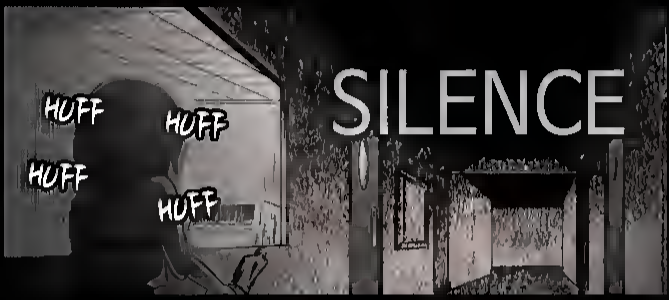
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK

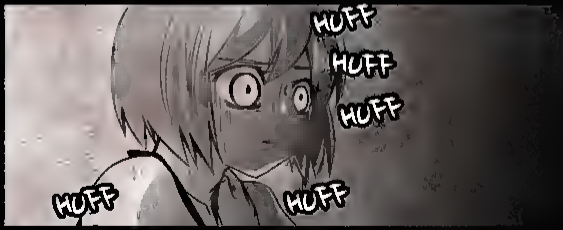
I NEED SOME KIND OF WEAPON...
GRAB
RATTLE

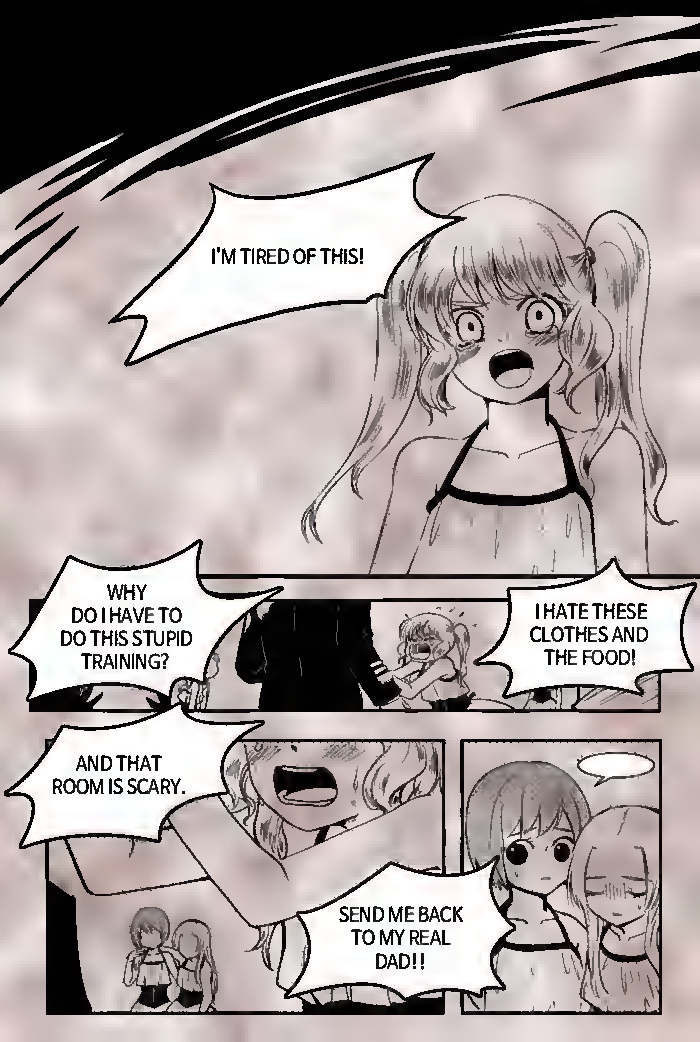
THIS IS...
WITH THIS, YOU CAN TEST THE BODY'S REACTIONS IMMEDIATELY.
WOW. BUT ISN'T THERE A CHANCE IT COULD HARM THE BODY?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT...
WE CAN'T HARM SUCH PRECIOUS BODIES TRY TO FIX THE PROBLEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
SHIVER
DRIP

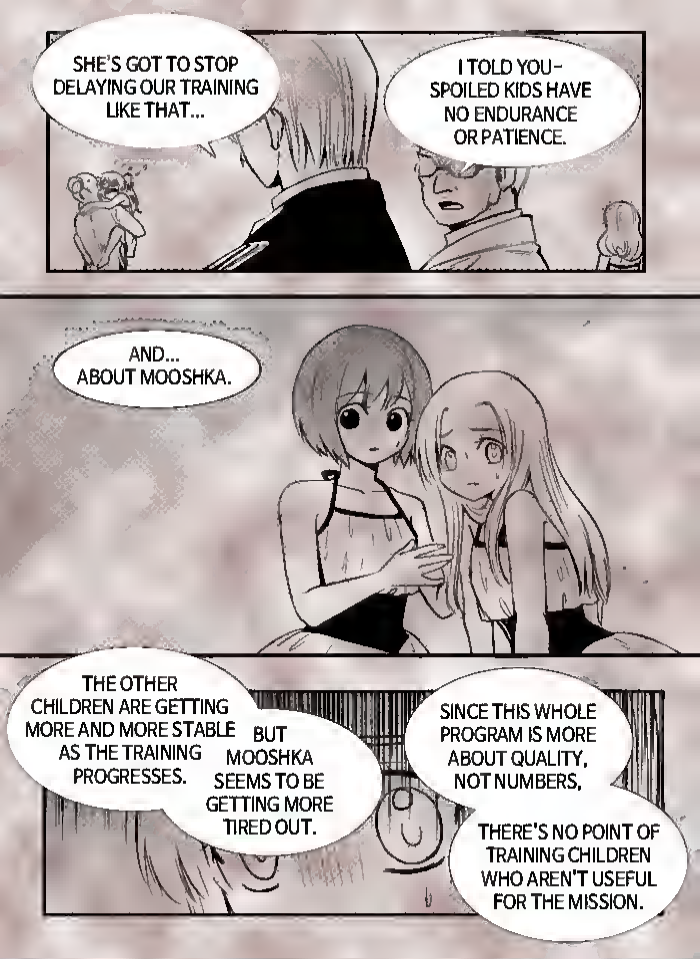
WHERE'D THIS COME FROM!!
WHISH
HUH?!
I CAN FEEL SOMETHING INSIDE.

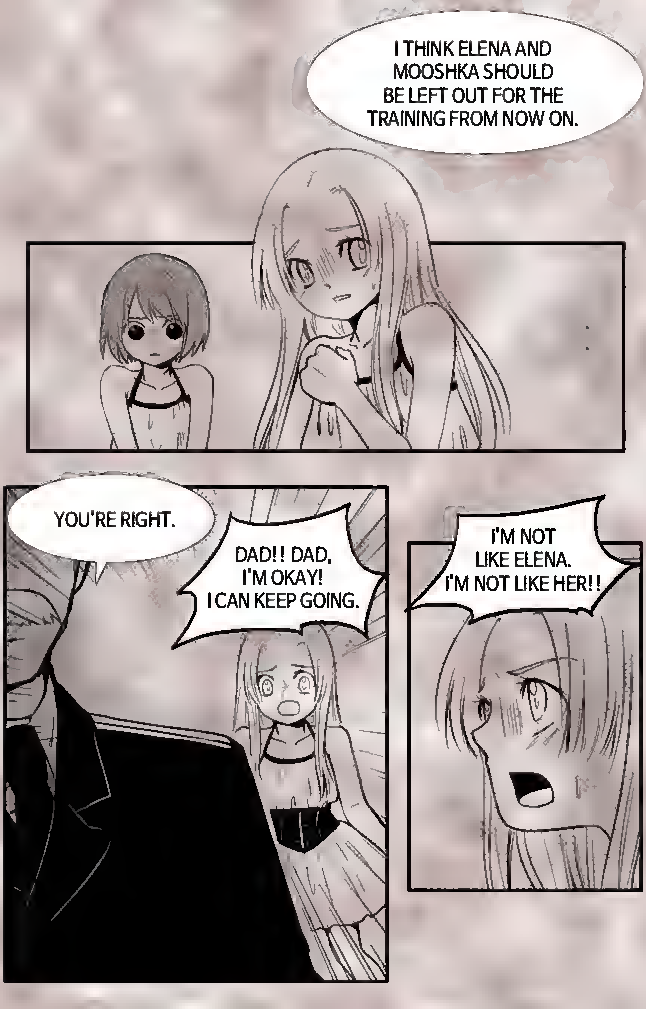

FIRST,
I'VE GOTTA STOP THE BLEEDING...
KOONG!
KOONG KOONG KOONG KOONG
KOONG
SWOOSH

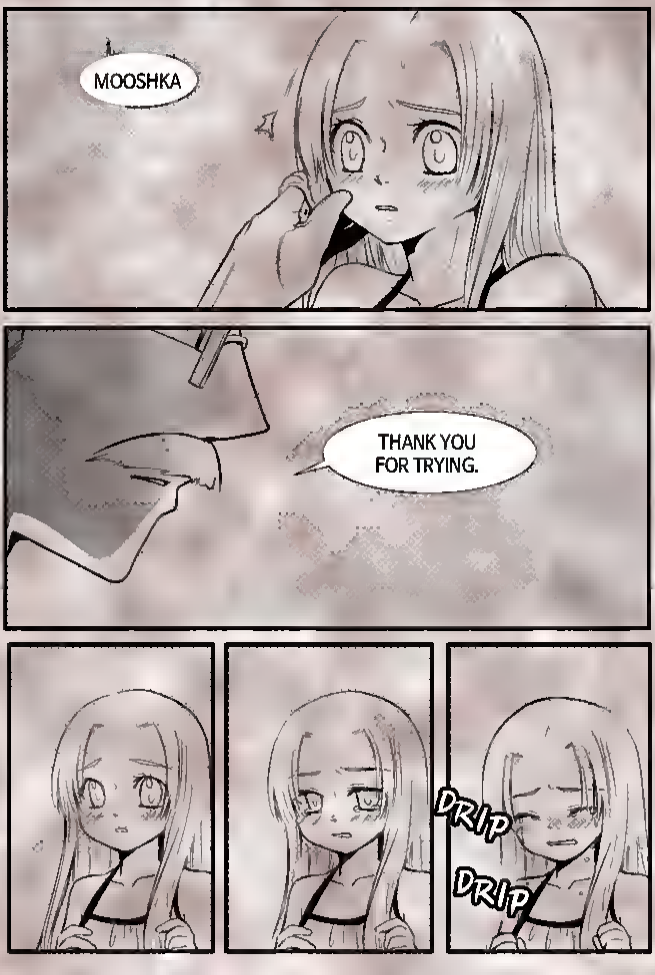

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
SILENCE

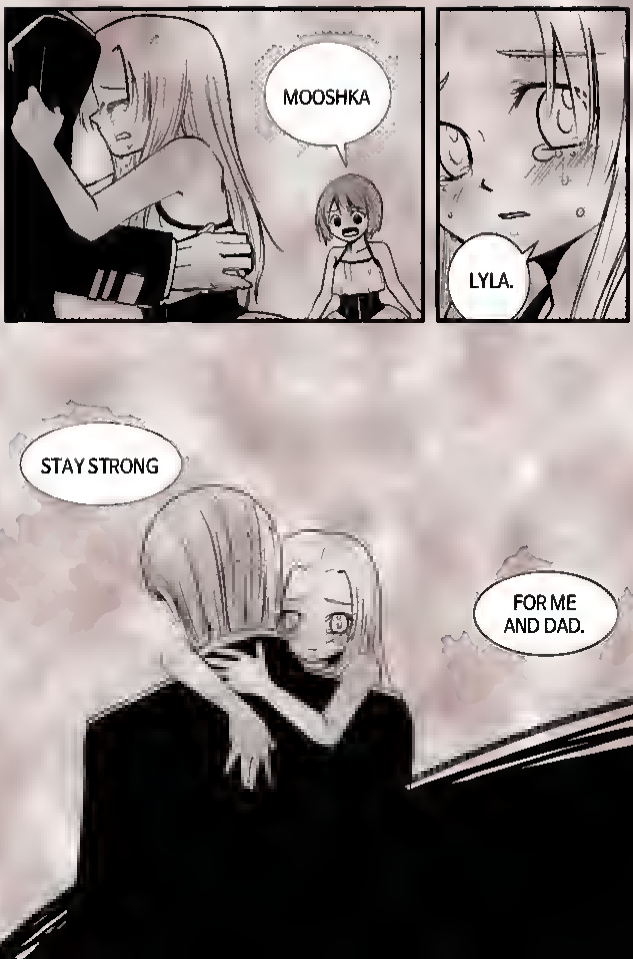

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


I'M TIRED OF THIS!
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS STUPID TRAINING?
I HATE THESE CLOTHES AND THE FOOD!
AND THAT ROOM IS SCARY.
SEND ME BACK TO MY REAL DAD!!


SHE'S GOT TO STOP DELAYING OUR TRAINING LIKE THAT...
I TOLD YOU- SPOILED KIDS HAVE NO ENDURANCE OR PATIENCE.
AND... ABOUT MOOSHKA.
THE OTHER CHILDREN ARE GETTING MORE AND MORE STABLE AS THE TRAINING PROGRESSES.
BUT MOOSHKA SEEMS TO BE GETTING MORE TIRED OUT.
SINCE THIS WHOLE PROGRAM IS MORE ABOUT QUALITY, NOT NUMBERS,
THERE'S NO POINT OF TRAINING CHILDREN WHO AREN'T USEFUL FOR THE MISSION.


I THINK ELENA AND MOOSHKA SHOULD BE LEFT OUT FOR THE TRAINING FROM NOW ON.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
DAD!! DAD, I'M OKAY! I CAN KEEP GOING.
I'M NOT LIKE ELENA. I'M NOT LIKE HER!!


MOOSHKA
THANK YOU FOR TRYING.
DRIP
DRIP


MOOSHKA
LYLA.
STAY STRONG
FOR ME AND DAD.

PLEASE, LYLA

TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK
TICK

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?

WHAT AM I DOING?

THE MOON BELOW

CONTINUE IN PART 2